

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 1565

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PL, VT

SUBJECT: ARCHBISHOP POGGI'S VISIT

REF: WARSAW 1528

1. SUMMARY. ASIDE FROM THE MINOR CONTROVERSY REPORTED IN REF-TEL, ARCHBISHOP POGGI'S VISIT SEEMS TO BE GOING WELL. POGGI WAS MET AT THE AIPT ON HIS ARRIVAL ON FEBRUARY 25 BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EPISCOPATE, THE OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, AND MFA PROTOCOL. THE EPISCOPATE REGARDS HIM AS THE PRIMATE'S GUEST, AND HE HAS BEEN STAYING WHILE IN WARSAW AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE FORMER PAPAL NUNCIO, WHICH NOW HOUSES EPISCOPATE OFFICES. THE AFTERNOON OF HIS ARRIVAL HE LUNCHEDED WITH CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI AND THE FOLLOWING DAY HE PRESENTED HIS LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION FROM CARDINAL WILLOT TO FOREIGN MINISTER OLSZOWSKI. IN ADDITION TO HIS SESSION WITH OLSZOWSKI, POGGI HAS MET TWICE WITH VICE FOREIGN MINISTER CZYREK AND WITH MINISTER KAKOL, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS. THE BALANCE OF HIS TIME HAS BEEN ABSORBED IN TOURING DIOCESES, MAINLY IN THE NORTH AND WEST. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE WILL BE RECEIVED BY PREMIER JAROSZEWICZ

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BEFORE LEAVING POLAND ON MARCH 25, BUT EPISCOPATE OFFICIALS

COULD NOT CONFIRM THIS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE OFFICIAL PRESS HAS LIMITED ITS COVERAGE TO POGGI'S SESSIONS WITH GOP OFFICIALS. POGGI'S MEETINGS WITH CHURCH OFFICIALS AND HIS OTHER CHURCH-CENTERED ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN REPORTED ONLY IN THE PAX DAILY SLOWO POWSZECHNE AND OTHER RELIGIOUS PERIODICALS.

3. COMMENTING ON THE VISIT, A KNOWLEDGEABLE CATHOLIC INTELLECTUAL OBSERVED THAT THE EPISCOPATE WOULD LIKE IT UNDERSTOOD THAT POGGI IS ITS GUEST, SO AS TO MINIMIZE ANY IMPRESSION OF ITS BEING BY-PASSED BY THE VATICAN. SIMILARLY, HE BELIEVES THAT THE EPISCOPATE ALSO PREFERS THE VISIT TO BE A LOW-KEY AFFAIR AND IS HAPPY TO MONOPOLIZE THE ARCHBISHOP'S TIME TO PRECLUDE ENHANCING THE MOMENTUM OF WARSAW-VATICAN RELATIONS. THE GOP, PROBABLY RESIGNED TO THIS AND POSSIBLY NOT ANXIOUS TO GRANT POGGI TO MUCH STATURE EITHER, HAS SUFFICIENTLY UNDERSCORED THE OFFICIAL NATURE OF POGGI'S VISIT BY THE AIRPORT RECEPTION AND THE PRESENTATION OF LETTERS OF AUTHORIZATION, ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE. INCIDENTALLY, HE AND OTHERS HAVE CAREFULLY STRESSED THAT POGGI'S DOCUMENTS ARE NOT EQUIVALENT TO LETTERS OF CREDENCE, WHICH WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE BY A NEWLY APPOINTED AEP. THIS SOURCE FURTHER REMARKED THAT IN HIS VISITATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FACILITIES AROUND THE COUNTRY POGGI IS ACTING AS A DE FACTO NUNCIO.

4. CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI, IN HIS REMARKS ON MARCH 16 (REFTEL), ALLEGEDLY REFERED TO A MARCH 15 PAP REPORT OF POGGI'S TALKS WITH VICE FOREIGN MINISTER CZYREK (MARCH 3 AND 14) WHICH NOTED THAT THE TALKS HAD ADDRESSED ESSENTIAL INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS OF COMMON INTEREST, ESPECIALLY PEACE AND SECURITY IN EUROPE. UPI REPORTED THAT THE CARDINAL HAD "CRITICIZED" POGGI FOR IGNORING DOMESTIC POLISH CHURCH PROBLEMS IN HIS TALKS WITH GOP OFFICIALS. THE UPI AGENT TOLD US HIS REPORT WAS BASED ON A TAPE OF WYSZYNSKI'S TALK RECORDED BY ANOTHER FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT HERE. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT WYSZYNSKI DID NOT NAME POGGI IN THE TALK, BUT THE TARGET OF THE CARDINAL'S REMARKS WAS CLEAR.

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5. ANOTHER POINT IN THE UPI DISPATCH TO WHICH EPISCOPATE OFFICIALS CALLED ATTENTION IS ERRONEOUS, AND THE LOCAL UPI MAN CLAIMS THAT HIS CENTRAL OFFICE IN BRUSSELS MISCONSTRUED IT. AS RECEIVED HERE, AND APPARENTLY AS REFE HAS REPLAYED IT, THE UPI REPORT SUGGESTS THAT THE CHURCH HAS BEEN DEMANDING THAT RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION BE GIVEN TO THE STATE-RUN SCHOOLS. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, THE CHURCH HAS ONLY BEEN ASKING FOR THE UNRESTRICTED RIGHT TO PROVIDE CATECHISM ON

ITS OWN.

6. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE WYSZYNSKI SOUGHT TO USE THE PAP REPORT OF THE POGGI-CZYREK MEETING TO RE-EMPHASIZE HIS OWN PRIORITIES. IN THEIR TWO DAYS OF TALKS (MARCH 3 AND 4), POGGI AND KAKOL DID DISCUSS CHURCH-STATE MATTERS, AND PAP DULY REPORTED THIS. WYSZYNSKI'S REPORTED SALLY UNDERSCORES AGAIN THE AREAS OF POTENTIALLY DIFFERING INTERESTS BETWEEN THE VATICAN AND THE POLISH EPISCOPATE; BOTH SIDE NEVERTHELESS SEEM INTENT ON STRESSING THEIR UNITY OF APPROACH.
DAVIES

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